

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14603 01 OF 02 242241 Z

70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 SIL-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 DODE-00

PM-07 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/110 W

----- 029191

P R 242200 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 479

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 14603

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION

1. SUMMARY. SINCE JOBERT WAS TOO BUSY TO RECEIVE AMBASSADOR AND KING COLE, ECONMIN AND COLE CALLED ON QUAI OFFICIALS TO URGE RECONSIDERATION OF GOF PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION. OFFICIALS SAID THEY WERE OPPOSED TO NATIONAL PARTICIPATION BECAUSE IT WOULD COST TOO MUCH AND TO EC PAVILION BECAUSE IN ABSENCE OF EC ENVIRONMENT POLICY AN EC PAVILION WOULD BE IMPROPER. COLE THEN PROPOSED THAT PAVILION ORGINALLY PLANNED FOR EC BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR NATIONAL SECTIONS TO BE OCCUPIED BY FRANCE AND THREE OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, NOT NECESSARILY EC MEMBERS. OFFICIALS PROMISED TO

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PAGE 02 PARIS 14603 01 OF 02 242241 Z

CONSIDER THIS PROPOSAL. COLE WILL ASK SENATORS JACKSON, MAGNUSON AND SCOTT TO URGE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT TO FOLLOW UP AT REYKJAVIK. HE GOES NEXT TO BONN AND THEN BRUSSELS TO REPEAT HIS PROPOSAL THERE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN SPITE OF REPEATED EFFORTS I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER JOBERT FOR KING COLE AND MYSELF TO DISCUSS FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION. JOBERT'S OFFICE TELLS US HE IS COMPLETELY PREOCCUPIED WITH PREPARATIONS FOR THE REYKJAVIK MEETING. HOWEVER, JOBERT ASKED TWO OF HIS COUNSELORS, BOIDEVAIX AND SOUVIRON, TO RECEIVE COLE AND THIS AFTERNOON COLE, ACCOMPANIED BY ECON/ COM MIN. PETROW CALLED ON THESE GENTLEMEN.

3. PETROW STRESSED GREAT IMPORTANCE USG ATTACHES TO EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION AND SAID THAT AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS REPRESENTATIONS TO FOREIGN MINISTER SCHUMANN, THE GOF HAD SEEMED CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON FRENCH NATIONAL PARTICIPATION. FOR REASONS WHICH WERE NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR THIS IDEA HAD BEEN DROPPED AND THE FOCUS HAD BEEN SHIFTED TO THE EC WHERE AGAIN FOR RASONS WHICH WERE NOT CLEAR, MATTERS SOON DEVELOPED INTO A COMPLETE IMPASSE.

4. BOIDEVAIX CONFIRMED THAT GOF HAD INDEED HOPED TO PARTICIPATE AT SPOKANE WITH NATIONAL PAVILION. HOWEVER, AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, FINANCE MINISTRY HAD CONCLUDED THAT GIVEN LIMITED FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR GOF PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL FAIRS, THE SPOKANE EXPOSITION WAS SIMPLY TOO EXPENSIVE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE GOF UNDERSTOOD HOW IMPORTANT EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION WAS TO THE US, IT HAD PROPOSED THAT THE NINE EC MEMBERS SHARE THE COST OF A SINGLE PAVILION WHICH WOULD HOUSE NINE NATIONAL SECTIONS. THE OTHER EIGHT HAD REJECTED THIS PROPOSAL SINCE SOME OF THEM FOUND EVEN THIS REDUCED COST TOO HEAVY TO BEAR. THE UK HAD THEN PROPOSED AN EC PAVILION FINANCED WITH COMMUNITY FUNDS. BOIDEVAIX, SECONDED BY SOUVIRON, EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO FRANCE. THERE WAS, AS YET, NO COMMUNITY POLICY ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND THEREFORE IT WOULD NOT BE PROPER FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 14603 01 OF 02 242241 Z

THE COMMUNITY TO HAVE A COMMUNITY PAVILION IN AN EXPOSITION WHOSE THEME WAS PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT. PETROW POINTED OUT THAT, TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, THERE HAD BEEN COMMUNITY PAVILIONS AT BOTH THE MONTREAL AND OSAKA FAIRS. SOUVIRON REPLIED THAT THESE WERE LITTLE MORE THAN GLORIFIED INFORMATION BOOTHS AND THAT THE FRENCH AND SEVERAL OTHER EC MEMBERS HAD BEEN REPRESENTED

AT THESE FAIRS BY NATIONAL PAVILIONS.

5. COLE SAID THAT HE ACCEPTED THIS EXPLANATION AND WAS RECONCILED TO THE FACT THAT THE PROPOSAL FOR AN EC PAVILION WAS NOW DEAD. HOWEVER IT WAS ESSENTIAL TO FIND SOME OTHER FORMULA FOR EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION. THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION EVER HELD IN THE US IN WHICH THERE WAS NO EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION. HE WAS SURE THAT GOF WOULD AGREE WITH HIM THAT THIS WOULD BE MOST UNFORTUNATE. CONSEQUENTLY HE HOPED THAT THE GOF WOULD NOW RECONSIDER THE EARLIER IDEA OF A FRENCH NATIONAL PARTICIPATION. IF FRANCE TOOK THE LEAD HE WAS SURE SEVERAL OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WOULD FOLLOW.

6. COLE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THE FINANCIAL PROBLEM. IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN HE WISHED TO PROPOSE THAT THE PAVILION, WHICH WAS BEING BUILT FOR AN ANTICIPATED EC PARTICIPATION BE DIVIDED INTO FOUR NATIONAL SECTIONS. IF FRANCE WOULD TAKE ONE OF THESE, HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO FIND OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS, NOT NECESSARILY EC MEMBERS, TO TAKE THE OTHER THREE. THE COST OF ONE OF THESE SECTIONS MIGHT BE AS LOW AS

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PAGE 01 PARIS 14603 02 OF 02 242244 Z

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PM-07 H-02 L-03 NSC-10 SS-15 RSR-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/110 W
----- 029267

P R 242200 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 480
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 PARIS 14603

300,000 DOLLARS AS COMPARED WITH AT LEAST A MILLION
DOLLARS FOR A SINGLE NATIONAL PAVILION.

7. BOIDEVAIX SAID THAT THIS WAS A NEW PROPOSAL AND
THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO STUDY IT. HE SAID
HE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT BUT PROMISED SPEEDY
CONSIDERATION.

8. COLE AND PETROW THEN CALLED ON BRUNET, DIRECTOR
OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AT THE QUAI TO WHOM COLE REPEATED
THIS PROPOSAL. PETROW POINTED OUT THAT THE PROPOSAL
AVOIDED THE DISADVANTAGES OF EARLIER SCHEMES: IT
WOULD COST LESS THAN A SINGLE NATIONAL PAVILION AND SINCE
FRANCE COULD SHARE OCCUPANCY WITH EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WHO
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PAGE 02 PARIS 14603 02 OF 02 242244 Z

ARE NOT NECESSARILY IN THE EC (E. G. SPAIN), THERE WOULD
BE NO NEED TO OBTAIN COMMUNITY AGREEMENT. BRUNET SAID
THESE WERE SIGNIFICANT POINTS AND ALSO PROMISED THAT THE
PROPOSAL WOULD BE GIVEN SPEEDY CONSIDERATION.

9. COLE HOPES THAT THIS APPROACH TO THE GOF CAN BE
FOLLOWED UP AT REYKJAVIK BY THE SECRETARY AND IF
POSSIBLE BY THE PRESIDENT. HE PLANS TO ASK SENATORS
MAGNUSON, JACKSON AND SCOTT TO APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT
AND THE WHITE HOUSE TO REQUEST THIS. I BELIEVE THAT IT
WOULD BE USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARY TO RAISE THE MATTER
WITH JOBERT AT REYKJAVIK IF A SUITABLE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS
ITSELF AND I RECOMMEND THAT HE DO SO.

10. COLE IS GOING TO BONN ON SATURDAY AND HOPES, WITH
THE ASSISTANCE OF THE EMBASSY, TO REPEAT HIS PROPOSAL TO
THE FRG. HE THEN PLANS TO GO TO BRUSSELS FOR
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GOB. HE HAS ABANDONED ANY
HOPE OF GETTING THE UK OR ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS TO
PARTICIPATE. IRWIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS14603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730553/aaaajsrn.tel
Line Count: 216
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980304
Subject: FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN SPOKANE EXPOSITION
TAGS: EGEN, FR, EGEN
To: BONN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
EUR
LONDON
ROME

SECSTATE WASHDC

THE HAGUE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005